

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A portable computer comprising a main body; and an LCD assembly, said main body
2 rotatably attached to said LCD assembly at proximal portions of said main body and said LCD
3 assembly, and including an LCD panel displaying virtual variable images thereon and an LCD back
4 light transmitting light for displaying the images on the LCD panel by power from a power supply.
5 said portable computer further comprising:

6 a latch hole disposed at a distal portion of one of the main body and the LCD assembly;
7 a latch member installed in a latch accommodating part provided at a distal portion of the
8 other of said LCD assembly and said main body, said latch hole disposed in operational relationship
9 with said latch member, and reciprocating from a hooking position at which the latch member is
10 hooked to the latch hole to a releasing position at which the latch member is released from the latch
11 hole; and

12 an LCD switching part installed in the latch accommodating part and controlling electric
13 power supplied to the LCD back light according to the position of the latch member.

1 2. The portable computer of claim 1, the latch member is movable from the releasing
2 position, against a spring bias, to an extension position via user actuation of a knob with a hook
3 attached thereto.

1 3. The portable computer of claim 2, the LCD switching part cuts off electric power to said

2 LCD back light when the latch member is positioned at said hooking position and said extension
3 position.

1 4. The portable computer of claim 3, the LCD switching part comprises:

2 a pushing projection attached to said latch member; and

3 a multistage push switch controlling the electric power based on present and previous
4 positions of said pushing projection.

1 5. The portable computer of claim 1, the latch accommodating part is provided a spring
2 elastically pulling the latch member toward a hooking position when said LCD assembly is closed
3 on said main body and towards a releasing position when said LCD assembly is rotated open from
4 said main body.

1 6. The portable computer of claim 1, the latch hole is provided at the main body, and the latch
2 accommodating part is provided at the LCD assembly.

1 7. The portable computer of claim 1, the latch hole is provided at the LCD assembly, and the
2 latch accommodating part is provided at the main body.

1 8. The portable computer of claim 5, the LCD back light can be powered on and off while
2 the LCD assembly is rotated away from said main body by activating a toggle switch activated by

3 briefly moving said latch member to said extension position.

1 9. The portable computer of claim 6, the LCD back light can be powered on and off while
2 the LCD assembly is rotated away from said main body by activating a toggle switch activated by
3 briefly moving said latch member to said extension position.

1 10. The portable computer of claim 7, the LCD back light can be powered on and off while
2 the LCD assembly is rotated away from said main body by activating a toggle switch activated by
3 briefly moving said latch member to said extension position.

1 11. A notebook computer, comprising:

2 a main body having a keyboard and a latch hole disposed at a center of a distal end of said
3 main body; and

4 an LCD monitor rotatably attached to said main body and having a latch member slidably
5 attached at a center of a distal end of said LCD monitor, a current and previous position of said latch
6 member determining whether power is delivered to said LCD monitor.

1 12. The notebook computer of claim 11, said latch member being spring loaded to move to
2 a releasing position when said LCD monitor is rotated apart from said main body, a hooking position
3 when said LCD monitor is locked onto said latch hole in said main body, and an extension position
4 when said latch member is user actuated to move fully against said spring bias.

1 13. The notebook computer of claim 12, further comprising a multistage push switch in
2 operational relationship with said latch member, said extension position of said latch member
3 serving as a toggle to power on or off said LCD monitor when said LCD monitor is rotated open
4 from said main body and said latch member is in said release position absent user actuation.

1 14. The notebook computer of claim 13, said LCD monitor being absent of power when said
2 latch member is in said hooking position.

1 15. The notebook computer of claim 11, further comprising a multistage push switch in
2 operational relationship with said latch member, fully pushing in said multistage switch by said latch
3 member serves to toggle on or off power delivery to said LCD monitor when said LCD monitor is
4 rotated apart from said main body, partial pushing in said multistage push switch serving to cut off
5 power to said LCD monitor.

1 16. A method for controlling delivery of power to an LCD panel in a notebook computer,
2 said method comprising the steps of:

3 sliding a latch member in a first direction to rotatably release said LCD panel from a main
4 body;

5 rotating said LCD panel away from said main body;

6 releasing said latch member allowing said latch member to move in a direction opposite to

7 said first direction; and

8 automatically activating a power switch to deliver power to said LCD panel.

1 17. The method of claim 16, further comprising the steps of:

2 sliding said latch member fully in said first direction while power is being delivered to said
3 LCD panel and said LCD panel being rotatably open from said main body;
4 releasing said latch member allowing said latch member to move fully in a direction opposite
5 to said first direction; and

6 automatically cutting off power to said LCD panel while said LCD panel is rotated open from
7 said main body.

1 18. The method of claim 17, further comprising the steps of:

2 sliding said latch member fully in said first direction when power is absent from said LCD
3 panel and said LCD panel being rotatably open from said main body;
4 releasing said latch member allowing said latch member to move fully in a direction opposite
5 to said first direction; and
6 automatically supplying power to said LCD panel.

1 19. The method of claim 17, said notebook computer comprising a multistage push switch

2 disposed in operational relationship with said latch member.

1 20. The method of claim 19, further comprising the steps of:
2 rotating said LCD panel towards said main body;
3 moving said latch member partially in said first direction enabling a hook on said latch
4 member to engage with an edge of a latch hole, locking said LCD panel to said main body; and
5 releasing said latch member to allow said hook on said latch member to engage said edge of
6 said latch hole, causing said multistage push switch to cut off power delivery to said LCD panel.